

## The West Tennessee Star.

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### GIVE THE BOYS ROOM.

Give the boys room to romp and riot.  
Give them a chance to grow sturdy and strong.  
He whose commands are "Sit still!" and "Be quiet!"  
Is training the youngster entirely wrong.  
Over-restraint is a system of perdition;  
Over-indulgence much evil has done.  
But boys are less apt to be ugly and vicious  
If given a season for innocent fun.

Give the boys room to spread themselves over;  
Widen their horizons—broaden their scope;  
Temper not the lad to become a wild rover  
By an endeavor to tighten the rope.  
Machismo will soon put an end to their folly,  
Sorrow and grief will smother their cup;  
Youth is the time to be careless and jolly;  
Give the boys room, and a chance to grow up.

Birds from their nests in the wildwood are  
Flying  
Hither and thither—a rapturous throng;  
Eagerly, gladly their pinions trying.  
And higher extending their flight and their  
Song.

Out in the fields—amid nature's domains—  
Gaining an insight into wonderful things,  
Free as the birds on aerial pinions,  
Give the boys room to develop their wings.

Stunt not their growth by tyrannical notions;  
Patiently bear with their mirth and their  
Noise;  
Let them give vent to their joyous emotions,  
Always reminding that "boys will be boys."  
Give the boys room for their proper enjoyment;  
Give the boys room for expansion of the night;  
Give all their faculties a chance to grow;  
Give the boys room to grow up as they ought.

—Josephine Pollock, in N. Y. Ledger.

### MARTY.

Of No Particular Use and Yet How  
She Was Missed.

They said she was absurdly com-  
monplace; that she was one of the  
homeliest women they ever saw, or  
that the Lord ever made; that she had  
so few ideas it was a mystery how she  
managed to get on in the world when  
she had to go on as she was, and  
living, because the world is full of sharp-  
ers and she would trust any one; that,  
taken altogether, there was really no  
particular use for her in the world.  
Yet it was amazing how they could not  
get on without her. Under the cir-  
cumstances, knowing her usefulness,  
it was strange that they must have her  
to do all the little household things  
when she was at home, and the keep-  
ing of the books while she had the  
time in the evenings, after a hard  
day's work. And it was remarkable,  
too, how she kept her good nature  
through it all. But that was Marty's  
strong point—her unflinching good  
nature.

It was "Marty, come here," or  
"Marty, go there," or "Marty, I want  
you," from her mother and father and  
sisters. Nobody could spin a top like  
Marty; nobody could smooth out the  
many wrinkles in the home machinery  
as Marty could; nobody could read the  
evening paper, and then say, "That's  
did; nobody could do it but Marty."  
To do the mending and the cheap-  
est and most appetizing table fare.  
That it took any brains to do this they  
did not seem to think. For her part,  
Marty might be a drowsy duty with her  
daily duties they took no thought. It  
was Marty; and Marty, somehow,  
was made for such things; she was good  
for nothing else.

They lived in the city, Marty's people  
did, and it was the easiest thing in the  
world to live on a small salary in the  
city. They had a flat—one of the  
cheapest they could get to accommo-  
date their rather large family, and they  
had to pay considerable, even for that.  
Then it was a matter of some money  
to feed such a family of growing young  
people; they must have nourishing food,  
and wanted plenty of it, which wasn't  
always easy to accomplish. And they  
must also be clothed. This last was,  
perhaps, the hardest of all, for they  
seemed to fairly grow out of their  
dresses and their pants; and it wasn't  
easy either to make the clothes of one  
child do for the next in size, because  
each one wore his or her clothes until  
they were absolutely wearing left to  
right. So she mended them and tried  
to keep things running so that the old  
girls and boys could have new things  
before the old wore out, so that the  
old could go to the younger children.  
It took a good deal of her time,  
and she had little enough time, but  
she was glad enough to do it, in order  
to help her parents who had load enough  
on their shoulders without worrying  
about that.

In return for all this what did she get?  
Well, in return she expected and  
wished nothing. That she was doing  
any thing but her duty she did not  
think; and she would perhaps have  
been greatly surprised if she had been  
offered any thing for her hard work.  
To be sure she did get dreadfully tired  
of the whole thing sometimes, and  
wished she might throw it all aside and  
have the pleasant times some of the  
girls had; but this was only when she  
was unusually tired and had had a  
hard day. She was at all perfect,  
and she never pretended to be; she  
went to church, and had a class in the  
Sunday school sometimes when the  
corps of teachers was low; but she had  
no thought of being other than a most  
unsatisfactory person in the busy  
world.

And so things went on as things  
always will go on till the end of time,  
and Marty was no nearer the wish of  
her heart than she was at the day of  
her birth. For Marty's great wish was  
to be loved and to know that she was  
loved, and it seemed that life was never  
to have this sweetness for her. Not  
that it made her unhappy at all, but it  
would have been such a comfort to  
have known some one cared for her,  
and whether or not she came home or  
never should come home.

"It's a pretty tough thing—life,"  
her father said, and Marty fully be-  
lieved it. Still, like all young people,  
she wished to live and therefore lived  
mysteriously that she puzzled many a wise  
head since the days of Solomon.

And one day the mystery was solved  
for her.

She had had a particularly hard day  
and was going home pretty well tired  
out and rather cross. Everything  
seemed to have gone wrong that day.  
She had made mistakes and been reprimanded  
by the head man and told that  
if she came thing ever again happened  
she must be prepared to find another  
place. She was crying a trifle as she  
walked along; it sort of eased her mind  
and would help her to be alone and her-  
self at home. Marty was always think-  
ing of what they would say at home and  
planning to have all things go smooth-  
ly there. She was feeling sick, some-  
how, and not like herself. Her head  
ached and so did her back. Once she  
came near falling from faintness, and  
a horror came over her.

What was the matter? She was not in the habit  
of feeling sick. She had been blabbed

with almost perfect health since she  
could remember.

As the feeling did not abate, but  
grew more and more severe, she  
stopped at a drug store and got a half  
dozen quinine pills.

"I believe I am getting malaria,"  
she said, laughing wearily to herself.  
"To think of my feeling sick!"  
But it wasn't malaria that had at-  
tacked Marty. She had never been  
very pretty, as the world judges  
beauty, and now the crowning stroke  
had fallen. Marty, the homeliest,  
most absurd of the large family, had  
the small-pox.

"As though she had not been a bother  
and worry to us all her life, but that  
this should fall upon us! It is really  
too much to be borne," said her mother.  
"And I suppose all the others will  
catch it from her. As for her beauty,  
she never had to mourn over, but  
Kate and Minnie ought to have made  
their fortunes by their faces, and now  
all will be ruined by this ridiculous  
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the disease did not seem to occur to  
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### MR. AND MRS. BOWSER.

Mr. Bowser Takes a Turn Among Dry  
Goods and Crochery Stores.

I had mentioned in a casual way that  
we needed some dishes, a new carpet,  
and some table linen, and that I must  
go down town and buy them, when  
Mr. Bowser came home at two o'clock  
one afternoon and said:  
"Well, you all ready?"  
"For what?"  
"Why, to go down and buy those  
things."  
"But I didn't know you wanted to  
go. Indeed, I wish you wouldn't."  
"Oh, you do? Are you afraid to be  
seen with me on the street?"  
"You know I'm not. I'm afraid you  
—you—"  
"Well, what?"  
"You'll jaw folks and get into a  
quarrel."  
"Mr. Bowser, are you getting soft  
in the head? Jaw folks? Get into a  
quarrel? Humph! Are you coming?"  
We first visited the carpet store. I  
had not yet made up my mind whether  
to get Brussels or velvet, nor whether  
to get light or dark colors. I expected  
to get a chair and have the clerk roll  
down about fifty pieces of each kind,  
and to be all of two hours making up  
my mind. One clerk ran to place  
chairs for us. A second arranged the  
window curtains, and a third inquired  
of Mr. Bowser:  
"Did you wish to look at some car-  
pets?"  
"Did I come up here to buy oys-  
ters?" demanded Mr. Bowser.  
"Lah—um! Light or dark colors?"  
"But the dark are all the style, you  
know."  
"I don't know any thing of the sort!  
There are plenty of white horses and  
houses, and white shirts and hats; and  
I don't know why light carpets  
shouldn't be fashionable. Roll down  
this piece."  
"Yes, sir; but you won't like it. This  
dark pattern is what Mrs. Governor  
Smith selected for her front bed-room."  
"Well, I will have gone to see  
the nurse, and they busy at it, were  
found time often to sit with her  
and bring her some little delicacy as  
she could eat, for they said, she was  
one of the most uncomplicated little  
souls they had ever had, and had such  
a way of thanking you with her  
wide dark eyes that it was a pleasure  
to do any thing for her.  
When they at home heard of her  
death they cried a little and said if it  
had been only any thing but the disease  
that had taken her, she would have been  
buried, but they must not expose the  
others; and time went on and none of  
the others caught it, and all went on  
well.  
But, some way, in spite of all this,  
there was a vacuum over filled, and  
a want so long felt that life grew  
harder than usual, and household  
matters did not glide so smoothly, and  
Marty was missed.  
"I wouldn't have believed it," her  
mother said, one day, "she was such  
a homely, untalented child. She did  
have a way of helping you along with  
whatever you were doing, and taking  
up little things that no one else would  
be likely to think of because they were  
so tiny, but I never dreamed that I  
would miss her so."  
"Yes," her father said, "I always  
had a tender spot for Marty. She didn't  
seem to be of any particular service,  
and they thought that all girls should  
be of some special use; but she began  
to think it was well for some women of  
the household to have no particular talent.  
Somebody has got to look after the  
homely things as well as the beautiful  
things of home, and Marty was the  
one who did this in our home. It didn't  
seem like home without her. I always  
did think a good deal of her."  
What a mockery it was! They cared  
for her when she was beyond all care  
for earthly things and let her starve  
when a few words would have sent her  
out to her work with such a light heart  
as to be glad to go. But so the world goes on and will go  
on doubtless to the end of time; and  
hearts starve for the words they never  
hear, and the love is given after the  
fact. It is the mystery  
of life. It can never be solved while  
life shall last.—J. K. Ludlum, in Ladies'  
Home Journal.

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You see, we may move in the spring,  
and if we moved, you know—"

"I want about fifteen dollars' worth  
of dishes," interrupted Mr. Bowser.  
"Yes, sir, in just a moment."

"How many of those tooth-pick hold-  
ers have you got?"  
"Only five."  
"I'll take the lot; and now come and  
wait on me. I want twelve cups and  
saucers, twenty-four plates, three or  
four platters, two tureens and a fish  
platter."

The lady turned about and killed me  
dead with one long look. Then she  
looked at the back of Mr. Bowser's  
neck and tried to murder him, but he  
would not fall. Then she returned  
and killed me over again, and gave  
her shoulders a twist and walked out of  
the store. She had hardly departed  
when a fresh arrival asked our clerk,  
busy though he was, to show her some  
teapots.

"Madame," said Mr. Bowser, "do  
you wish to buy some spoons?"  
"Perhaps."  
"Do you know whether you do or  
not?"  
"Why—I'll look it at them."

"Very well; you sit down and wait  
until I am through buying. I came to  
buy, know what I want, and shall pay  
cash down."  
I was killed again, and if looks could  
have crushed Mr. Bowser, he'd have  
been a mangled corpse in ten seconds.  
We were only thirteen minutes buy-  
ing the dishes, and as we got out and  
reached the car, Mr. Bowser said:  
"Now do you go feeling for my  
horse barn later on. Send up a man  
to measure the room, and give me that  
light pattern."

"Why, Mr. Bowser!" I said. "You  
haven't selected already?"  
"Certainly."  
"But we've—"  
"Five minutes is enough for any one  
to select a carpet, Mr. Bowser. We  
want body-brussels, and we want a  
light ground. That's all there is to it.  
We will now go over and buy the table  
linen."

"I can't I have time to look  
around?"  
"Time! What do you want of time?  
You want three linen table-cloths and  
two dozen napkins. We've got the  
money to pay for 'em. What more  
is desired?"  
"But it's so sudden."  
"So are earthquakes. We'll go in  
here."

We entered a dry-goods store and sat  
down to the linen counter. A young  
man came forward to wait on us, and  
after being told what was wanted, he  
queried:  
"So you want some real linen. Well,  
here is something I can recommend."  
"Is that all linen?"  
"Yes, sir."  
"Is it?" asked Mr. Bowser, as he  
turned to me.

"I didn't think it was, but I told Mr.  
Bowser to let it go. It was the custom  
in all dry-goods stores to lie about such  
things and no one thought of raising a  
row."

"Madame," said Mr. Bowser, as he  
took the cloth over to a motherly old  
lady, "is this all linen?"  
"No, sir, it's half cotton!" she re-  
plied, after an inspection.

"Whereas the proprietor of this  
store?" he demanded of the clerk.  
"I'll call him, sir."  
The proprietor came up.  
"Is that linen?" asked Mr. Bowser.  
"It passes for linen, sir."  
"If you put a cow's horns and tail on  
a horse, he'd pass for a cow, wouldn't  
he? Sir, this looks to me like a petty  
swindle, and one you ought to